

January 30, 2009

First Quarterly Training Session Saw Success

The OSE hosted the first of its new, quarterly training sessions on Part I of the Code of Ethics for State Employees at its office on January 15. Because of the high interest, we are holding a second session in February to accommodate all of those who were placed on the wait list for this program. Registration for the next quarterly session will be announced in this forum in March.

New Advisory Opinion

On January 29, 2009, the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board met and decided on one new Advisory Opinion. Click on the number to read the full text of the opinion.

[Advisory Opinion No. 2009-1](#), Application of General Statutes § 1-84b (b), a Revolving-door Provision, to Employees of the Office of Consumer Counsel. (This opinion overturns part of Advisory Opinion 1996-9.)

Connecticut General Statutes § 1-84b (b) is a revolving-door provision that generally prohibits a former state employee, for one year after leaving state service, from representing anyone for compensation before the state agency in which he or she "served" at the time of leaving state service. In applying that provision to Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) employees, the former State Ethics Commission concluded, in Advisory Opinion 1996-9, that their former agency "is the entire [Department of Public Utility Control], including the OCC." Disagreeing and thus overturning that part of Advisory Opinion 1996-9, the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board concluded that former OCC employees never "served" in the DPUC, meaning that they are no longer prohibited by § 1-84b (b) from appearing before that agency within one year of leaving state service. They are, however, still subject to the one-year ban with respect to the OCC.

Administrative Lobbying – Be Aware

Lobbyist registration for 2009-2010 has taken place. A complete list of registered lobbyists as well as associated data is available on the OSE's [Web site](#).

While legislative lobbying (any lobbying that affects legislation) is generally easy to understand, the less-obvious administrative lobbying can go unnoticed. Administrative lobbying means lobbying that affects the rules or regulations of an executive agency. This also includes lobbying that affects the actions of an executive or quasi-public agency regarding a contract, grant, award, purchasing agreement, etc.

All individuals or entities who pay or receive \$2,000 in a calendar year for legislative lobbying, administrative lobbying, or a combination of the two, must register with the OSE and wear an identifying badge. If you notice that someone visiting your agency is engaging in lobbying activity but is not registered, please refer them to the OSE for assistance.

Best regards,

Meredith Trimble